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SCORES POOR QUALITY OF EXPORT PRODUCTS

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During the past year, reciprocal trade agreements were maintained with the USSR, the People's Republic of China, the neighboring people's republics, and the German Democratic Republic. Sufficient raw materials, semifinished goods, and machinery were imported to fulfill the requirements of the second year of the Five-Year Plan. The USSR, in particular, aided in the planning, building, and equipping of such important projects as the Stalin Works [Dunapentele] and the Borsod Chemical Works. Through the cooperation of its allies, Hungary is now ready to start mass production of ships, diesel trains, boilers, locomobiles, and electric installations.

However, there are still shortcomings in foreign trade transactions. Sometimes the quality, packaging, and shipment of export merchandise are checked only superficially. Mistakes not noticed in time cannot be corrected. For example, only two of the four boat motors especially manufactured for export at the Lang Gephyar (Lang Machine Enterprise) were of acceptable quality. Only 14 of 50 turret lathes produced by the Femaru es Szerszamgyar (Metalware and Machine-Tool Enterprise) were ready and fit for export within the specified time. For similar reasons, 54 EU lathes made at the Budapesti Szerszamgyar (Budapest Machine-Tool Enterprise) were rejected as unfit for export.

Frequently, transactions are delayed by the carelessness of the directors of the export enterprises. At the HUNGAROTEX export enterprise, color samples of the textiles intended for export were specified too late, and then at the last moment the colors were changed. Such inefficient organization not only causes delay but also injures quality.

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The Ministry of Foreign Trade and the export-import enterprises must see to it that materials needed by the country's expanding economy are contracted for in time to ensure their arrival when required. Many of Hungary's foreign trade representatives are insufficiently prepared, both politically and as experts, to meet the growing competition arising from the present critical international situation.

The industrialization of the country demands that more industrial raw materials, semifinished goods, and especially machinery be imported. Therefore, all branches of industry will participate in foreign trade more than ever before. Trade with the USSR and the other friendly nations must be built up. Reciprocal trade agreements with the capitalist countries should remain in force only if they are truly reciprocal.

In the interest of the increased Five Year Plan, economy, particularly in the use of imported materials, is called for. Only materials that cannot be produced domestically must be imported. Hungarian firms must make shipments on time and export only first-grade, expertly packed goods.

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